

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE EGGS OF TWO SPECIES OF
AUSTRALIAN BIRDS.

BY A. J. NORTH.

NO. 1. MELANODRYAS PICATA, *Gould*.

This bird has a wide range over the Continent of Australia, specimens having been procured together with the nest and eggs by Mr. James Ramsay in October, 1876 near Bourke, New South Wales; and last year both Mr. Cairn and the late Mr. T. H. Boyer-Bower obtained several specimens about 80 miles inland from Derby, North-Western Australia. The nest is a small shallow structure, composed of strips of bark, grasses, and roots, held together on the outside with cobwebs, and placed on the dead branch of a tree within a few feet of the ground. Eggs two in number for a sitting, one specimen (A) being of a dark asparagus green faintly tinged with brown on the larger end; the other (B), with the exception of the smaller end which shows the asparagus green ground colour, is shaded over all with rich brown, more particularly towards the larger end, which is entirely capped with a darker tint of the same colour. Length (A), $0\cdot8 \times 0\cdot59$ inch; (B), $0\cdot78 \times 0\cdot6$ inch. (*From the Dobr. Mus. Coll.*)

NO. 2. EUDYNAMIS CYANOCEPHALA, *Latham*.

(*E. flindersi*, GOULD).

Mr. George Masters obtained an egg of this species at Gayndah, Queensland, on the 25th of November, 1870. Having shot a female and broken her wing, while pursuing it on the ground the egg was dropped. It is a pointed oval in form, of a dull white

minutely spotted with light brown, together with a few faint blotches here and there of purplish-brown, the smaller end being entirely devoid of markings. Whether this is the normal colour of the egg is yet to be proved, as the egg being dropped by the bird when wounded, and the markings very faint, it is probable that it may not have been quite ready for laying. Long diameter 1·4 inch, short diameter 1·05 inch. (*From the Aus. Mus. Coll.*)

A photograph of this egg, sent by Dr. Geo. Bennett, F.Z.S., of Sydney, was exhibited at the June meeting of the Zoological Society of London, 1873. See P.Z.S., 1873, p. 519.